

PATENT**REMARKS**

Claims 1-40 are pending in the present application. In the above amendments, claims 1, 17, 28, and 31 have been amended and claims 9, 21, 29 and 30 have been canceled without prejudice. No new claims have been added. In the Office Action mailed December 02, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 17, 28, and 29 and objected to claims 2-16, 18-27 and 30-32. The Examiner has not provided any comments regarding claims 33-40. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as presented are allowable.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yau et al. (US 6,418,162) ("Yau") in view of Signell et al. (US 6,032,166) ("Signell"). and rejected claims 28 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Yau. The Examiner objected to claims 2-16, 18,-27, and 30-32 and indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitation of claim 9, have amended claim 17 to include the limitation of claim 21, and have amended claim 28 to include the limitations of claims 29 and 30. Accordingly, applicants have essentially rewritten claims 9, 21 and 30 in independent form by amending claims 1, 17, and 28.

Before the above amendments, claim 9 depended directly from claim 1. Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitation of claim 9. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is now allowable.

Regarding claim 2-8 and 10-16, these claims depend from claim 1, which is allowable. Accordingly, claim 2-8 and 10-16 are at least allowable as depending from an allowable base claim.

Before the above amendments, claim 21 depended directly from claim 17. Applicants have amended claim 17 to include the limitation of claim 21. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claim 17 is now allowable.

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Regarding claim 18-20 and 22-27, these claims depend from claim 17, which is allowable. Accordingly, claim 18-20 and 22-27 are at least allowable as depending from an allowable base claim.

Before the above amendments, claim 30 depended from claim 29 which depended from claim 28. Applicants have amended claim 28 to include the limitations of claim 29 and claim 30. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claim 30 is now allowable.

Regarding claim 31 and 32, these claims depend from claim 28, which is allowable. Accordingly, claim 31 and 32 are at least allowable as depending from an allowable base claim.

It appears that the Examiner has not examined claims 33-40. Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are allowable as presented.

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that all pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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